

OHIO.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

A MEETING HELD IN ZANESVILLE,

Against the Bank of the United States.

MAY 19, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

In pursuance of a call signed by nearly six hundred citizens of Muskingum county, one of the largest and most respectable meetings that ever convened in the county, met at Orndoff's Assembly Room, on Saturday, the 3d day of May, 1834, at about 1 o'clock P. M.

The most extraordinary and unprecedented means were resorted to by the nullifiers and bank men to prevent a general attendance. The object of the meeting was denounced in poetry, in newspapers, in handbills, and in caricatures—all in the most miserable style. Notwithstanding the season of the year was a busy one, farmers from the remotest parts of the county gave their attendance, and participated in the deliberations of the meeting. It was emphatically an assemblage of the people, composed of farmers and mechanics, the bone and sinew of the country.

The utmost harmony prevailed throughout, and all the resolutions, excepting the one relating to a State and National Convention, were unanimously adopted. To that resolution there *were three dissenting voices.*

The meeting was called to order by William Blocksom, Esq., when Colonel Joseph Sharp was appointed President, assisted by Messrs. James Jeffries, Littleton Adams, Llewellyn Howell, William Besant, and Andrew G. Dugan as Vice Presidents; George Smythe, Henry Sines, and Washington Jeffries acted as Secretaries.

After the object of the meeting was stated by the President, George H. Flood offered for adoption the following resolution, which was read and agreed to, to wit:

Resolved, That a committee of six persons be appointed by the President to report resolutions for the consideration of the meeting.

Whereupon, the President announced George H. Flood, Thomas Maxfield, Jesse Fenton, David M. Sellers, James Cummins, and Dice Ellis, as said committee. The committee then retired, and, after some time,

returned, and reported, through George H. Flood, the following resolutions, which were considered, an seperately adopted, to wit :

1. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this meeting, there is no clause in the constitution which authorized the establishment of the Bank of the United States, and an assumption of power on the part of the General Government, not delegated by the constitution, is at war with the principles of our Government, and dangerous to the liberties of the people.

2. That, aside from the constitutional objection, we believe that the interference of the Bank and its agents in the politics of the country, by the profuse employment of its money and influence in opposition to the known will of a majority of the people ; its unusual and enormous loans to the conductors of such portions of the public press as advocate its interest, and binding their support in the golden fetters of corruption ; its expending upwards of eighty thousand dollars in printing and circulating political publications, to influence elections, and disappoint the wishes and interest of the people ; its attempts to thwart the laudable desire of the nation to pay off the public debt, by secretly negotiating with its holders to defer its redemption ; its refusal of a rightful participation in a knowledge of its management to the people's representatives seated as Government directors at its board ; the committal of its extensive concerns to the direction of a secret committee of exchange, in violation of a provision in its charter, and corruptly withdrawing it from the board of directors ; its confiding the management of its treasure to the President of the Bank, without restriction or accountability, for the purpose of procuring a recharter ; and its general corrupt perversion of its banking privileges, to produce embarrassment, pressure, and panic, by unequally operating on the currency of the country, and gross departures from its original object, a violation of its duty to the public, insulting to the dignity of the nation, and dangerous to its prosperity, happiness, and freedom.

3. That the President of the United States, by vetoing this corrupt and dangerous institution, has heaped new laurels on his brow, and created new claims upon the gratitude of his countrymen.

4. That we believe the removal of the deposits to be sanctioned by the best interests of the country ; and we think it would have been a dereliction of duty to have permitted the Government funds to remain in the hands of an arrogant monopoly, after its corruption became manifest by repeated violations of its charter.

5. That we believe the removal was justifiable in the removal of William J. Duane as Secretary of the Treasury, and it was his imperious duty, not only on account of his ascertained unfitness for the station, but his disregard of the principles of truth and honor in violating his word to the President, that, in case they should ultimately differ on the policy of removing the deposits, he would voluntarily retire from office, and make room for a successor whose views on the subject would correspond with those of the President, but, when brought to the test, refused to fulfil his engagement, thereby forfeiting all confidence of the President and the nation.

6. That we regard with the highest admiration the unshaken firmness, superior ability, and untiring perseverance of the present Secretary of the Treasury, Roger B. Taney, Esq., and we heartily wish him every

success which may be due to pre-eminent talents and distinguished public services.

7. That we believe the majority in the Senate of the United States, in censuring the Executive for the late acts of the Government in relation to the public depositories, have assumed high and dangerous powers, unauthorized by the constitution, and that the sentiments advanced by the President, in his protest, against their unconstitutional usurpation, are the sentiments of nine-tenths of the American people, if fairly expressed.

8. That the lofty and magnanimous conduct of William C. Rives, Esq., in resigning his senatorship when his opinions differed from the instructions of the Legislature of his State, has endeared him to all who believe in republican principles, and inscribed his name among the purest of patriots.

9. That the thanks of this meeting are hereby tendered to Thomas Morris, Esq., one of our Senators, and Robert Mitchell, Esq., our Representative in Congress, for the uniform support they have rendered the administration on all questions calculated to promote the honor of our country, and perpetuate her free institutions.

10. That this meeting warmly approve the course pursued by Messrs. Keith and Cooper, in the late Legislature of Ohio; that their practice was in accordance with their professions; and that we believe they will be triumphantly sustained by the democracy of Muskingum.

11. That we cordially approve of the proceedings of the State Convention assembled at Columbus on the 8th of January last, and that we believe the surest means of concentrating the democratic party on an individual as General Jackson's successor, is from a fair expression of a National Convention.

12. That we heartily concur in the nomination made by the State Convention of General Robert Lucas for re-election as Governor. In the late war he sought distinction in his country's service, and was ever found at the point of duty, faithful, skilful, and brave. His services in civil life as a Representative, Senator, and Governor, have exhibited talents of the first order, and eminently place him in the front ranks of those who have been elevated to the highest honors of Ohio.

13. That we deprecate, with emotions of the deepest regret, the introduction into this country of a new-fangled doctrine and political heresy, under the guise of "State rights," but better known by the name of nullification; a doctrine at war with every principle of justice, civil, political, and moral; a doctrine which allows a State the unprecedented and extraordinary privilege of being in and out of the Union at her own pleasure; a doctrine which places a State within the Union for the purposes of protection, and, at the same time, gives her the power of refusing her quota of taxes and duties for the support of the Government, presenting the strange anomaly in legal, moral, and political justice, of requiring the performance of a service or duty on one side, without any equivalent or consideration whatever on the other.

14. That we believe nullification has a direct tendency to a dissolution of the Union, and an overthrow of our republican institutions, and we cordially invite the few who embrace its ruinous doctrines, to pause and assist us in sustaining our country, our laws, and our constitution.

15. That we heartily approve of the following sentiments of the great apostle of liberty, in his inaugural address, March 4, 1801: "If," says Mr. Jefferson, "there be any among us, who would wish to dissolve this Union, or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated when reason is left free to combat it."

16. That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the President and Vice President of the United States, and to each of our Senators, and to our Representatives in Congress, with a request that they be laid before their respective Houses.

JOSEPH SHARP, *President.*

JAMES JEFFRIES,
LITTLETON ADAMS,
LLEWELLYN HOWELL,
WILLIAM BESANT,
ANDREW G. DUGAN,

Vice Presidents.

HENRY SINES,
GEORGE SMYTHE,
WASHINGTON JEFFRIES,

Secretaries.